Government and one-fourth by the ryots concerned and requested early orders in the matter. He then urged the early execution of the following works :—

(i) Improvement of the Vandiyar and Karupatti *chiras*. Catchwater drainage channels on both sides of the Kottukal *Ela* and in the Karupatti *chira* should be constructed to carry off the monsoon drainage; the people were willing to give up the required lands free of compensation. In the opinion of the Member, the drainage channels were more important and should be taken up before the restoration of tanks.

(ii) Improving the drainage channels from Vellayani Lake to the Karamana river. During floods the water rose to a good height and prevented the floods from the fields flowing into it; in consequence considerable damage was caused to cultivation.

(iii) Restoring the damaged sluice at Korandikara.

The Member next urged the improvements of the following traces and their conversion into cart roads so as to facilitate transport of manure for agricultural purposes.

(1) Malayainkil—Ooruttambalam trace.
(2) Nemam—Ooruttambalam trace.
(3) Peyad—Vellanad trace—5 miles long.
(4) Thatchuttukavu—Athiyurkonam trace and
(5) Aramannur—Ooruttambalam trace.

Dewan's reply.—The Peishkar's report referred to by the Member regarding the tanks in the Neyyattinkara taluk has been just received. It will be considered and orders passed. As regards the catch drains on either side of the Karupatti *chira*, the D. P. W. will be requested to make provision for them in the estimate for the repair of the *chira*. As regards draining Vellayani, the Chief Engineer says that only pumping is possible. People should co-operate and set up a pumping plant.

Member.—Government should undertake the work. People may contribute for the cost, if necessary. A conscientious P. W. D. officer should be deputed.

Dewan.—As regards the culvert across the Korandi canal, Government will do the needful after getting an estimate.

58. The deplorable condition of the village roads and traces in the Neyyattinkara taluk and some suggestions for their improvement.

Mr. K. Padmanabha Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara Taluk) expressed his gratification at the principle enunciated by Government that preference should be given to the improvement of means of communication, and submitted that there were about 125 miles of roads and 34 miles of traces in the taluk, besides the Main Southern Road passing through the taluk and that most of the important roads were in a deplorable condition owing to the insufficiency of allotment or owing to the maintenance works not being properly attended to. He prayed for a number of works being immediately attended to. The most important of which was the improvement of the Amaravila-Ottasekharamangalam road. That was one of the oldest roads in the taluk 9 miles in length and connecting 25 congested villages with the Neyyattinkara town; there were a number of departmental and aided schools, two Proverthy Cutcherries, one Police out-post and two important markets served by that road. Owing to the absence of 3 small bridges and half a dozen culverts, it was practically useless for traffic during the rains, and people were undergoing considerable hardship. The Member requested that the improvement of the road might be taken up urgently by the P. W. department. Among the other works referred to by the Member were the following :—

(i) extending the Oothiyankulangara to Kulathur Chavadi road to meet the Puvar-Shankurutti road between the 3rd and 4th mile;

(ii) widening and improving the trace from the 6th mile M. S. road to the 3rd mile Balaramapuram-Kattakada road ;

(iii) constructing a bridge at Puvar on the Puvar-Shankurutti road ;

(iv) improving the road beginning from the 2nd mile of Amaravila-Ottasekharamangalam road eastward to join Amaravila-Anapara Ambalam road and making

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it fit for cart traffic. It was 6 miles in length had been opened by the people of the locality and without any large expenditure it could be rendered useful for cart traffic, if the department would take it up.

Lastly, the Member referred to the dangerous condition of the bridge at the 2nd mile stone of the Neyyattinkara-Puvar road and requested that the repairs to them might be taken up at an early date.

Dewan's reply.—As regards the traces and the other P. W. D. works referred to by the Member, the P. W. D. admit the necessity for works of this kind, but say that they can only be taken up as far as funds permit in the order of urgency. What I wish to explain to you in this connection is that we are finding that the P. W. D. works in general have become much more costly than before and that the maintenance of these works has also become much more expensive. Consequently, many necessary works remain unexecuted. I think that the time has come for private enterprise to step in and assist Government in these matters. In regard to works which do not require much professional skill, such as the opening of new traces or maintaining existing traces or doing small repairs to them, Government and the Chief Engineer would be very willing to hand over such works to local agencies. Government and the Chief Engineer would confine themselves to seeing that these works are executed and maintained at a certain standard of efficiency. If people would undertake these works, they could do them much more efficiently, quickly and cheaply. As I was saying in my opening speech, a certain Sangham in Tiruvalla has constructed roads for about fifty miles. The people have come forward and given lands for opening new roads and offered to maintain old ones. What is wanted is more and more of that sort of co-operation from the people. I am glad to hear that in your taluk also people have come forward with such help. The P. W. D. will confine themselves to bridges and otherworks requiring professional skill.

59. Needs of the Trivandrum Taluk re: irrigation and communication.

Mr. V. Atchutha Menon B. A. (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) first dealt briefly with the irrigation system in the Trivandrum taluk, and said that the irrigation works had all been neglected by Government. He then represented the needs of the pakuthies which formed his constituency.

(1) In that portion of the Kiliyar river running through the taluk there were seven dams constructed with supply channels for taking water for purposes of cultivation. Of those dams two only, *viz.*, Maruthankuzhi and Pangode, were in sound condition, the remaining five *viz.*, Murukoli, Kaduvetti, Parachira, Puthenkotta and Ayranimuttam had either disappeared or were in a hopeless condition of disrepair. Consequently, cultivation suffered in the areas served by the dams, because the supply channels from those dams were in a much neglected condition and had become completely silted up. In certain places there was so much of encroachment that no trace of the channels existed. It was highly necessary, in the opinion of the Member, that the dams with the distributary channels should be restored to their original condition. The question of drainage was equally important as the paddy lands east of the Trivandrum Town were submerged under water during the floods.

(2) The second item mentioned by the Member was the Anathazhum *chira* in Andoorkonam. It was situated near the Pallippuram camp shed. There was a feeder channel from that *chira* which irrigated about 240 acres of land. But with the lapse of years the channel had become disused and the *chira* had also been encroached upon and silted up. The inlet channel had also been silted up thus making the *chira* completely useless. The *chira* and the channel should be repaired and put into thorough order, so that the paddy lands in the vicinity might be benefited.

(3) There was a river by the name Vettiyar running through Kazhakkuttam, Kulathur and other places and emptying itself into the Veli lake. If dams and sluices were constructed in the existing supply channels, water could be used to irrigate a large area of paddy lands.

(4) The Aurayathu thodu was a watercourse running through Valiazhuthura, Madathuvilagam, Vanchiyur, &c., near Kannanmula and emptying itself into

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